



PTA Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 1, 2015 – Alamo Library
Approximately 50 attendees
Meeting began at 6:31pm

Welcome (6:31pm) – Wendi Digerness

- Introductions around the room
- Explanation of “STORY” portion of meetings

STORY by Wendi Digerness

Principal’s Report (6:45pm) – Rosa Fong

- First two weeks of school went well
- She is still working of staff support including getting a permanent librarian. We will receive an update about this at Back to School Night.
- Her office is always open to parents. If she is busy, please see Ms. Shellie to schedule an appointment.
- Q: What is she most excited about for this year? A: Having a part-time IT person and a full-time mental health/social worker. Also, Rosa is still focused on community building at Alamo.
- Q: Status of librarian? A: Alamo is not ID’d as a needy school. The SFUSD is short on librarians. We are budgeted to have a 3-day a week librarian but we currently have 2 1-day a week librarians. She is working on it as best she can. If the PTA wanted to consider funding this need, Rosa would be open to discussing.

Approval of Minutes from May 5th (6:54pm) – Kira Storch-Chiu

- This is a standard practice that is done at each PTA meeting. For future meetings, the previous meetings minutes will be sent out along with the agenda for people to review. The minutes are posted on the Friends of Alamo website as well as in a PTA binder in the office.
- Table approval of the minutes until the next meeting.

Treasurer’s Report (6:55pm) – Susie Legaspi

- Susie used last years budget as a guide. She increased some fundraising event amounts by a few percentages.
- Expenses: She left most of them as is, except for teacher’s stipend.
- Wendi: If you’ve never been to a PTA Meeting before, we are going to talk through some the fundraisers and school events so that you know where money is going.
- To receive a copy of the budget, email Susie at: susie_lee111@gmail.com.
- FYI: To vote to approve the PTA budget, you need to be a PTA member for 30-days so please join the Alamo PTA today.
- Checks were approved at 7:00pm.

Foundation Update (7:02pm) – Elizabeth Meeks

- Explanation of Friends of Alamo School Foundation: This was started years ago because Alamo families wanted to hire specialists/consultants to provide additional enrichment programs to our students. Currently, the foundation funds Ms. Kat (singing and chorus), Ms. Murphy (PE), Jodie Louie (Literacy), ceramics supplies, a portion of Education Outside, field trips and Coffee & Conversation.
- Update: Last years auction grossed 54k (net 37k). Raffle grossed almost 38k (net 33k).
- To ensure the quality of our employees/consultants, each year, the Foundation has teachers fill-out a survey to review the 3 employees. The results from last years survey were they all received wonderful reviews.

Communications (7:07pm) – Tal Palter

- Tal has been on communications team for 3 years.
- Goal: To communicate Alamo happenings to staff, teachers, families.
- Current ways to find out about Alamo happenings:
 - Friends of Alamo website
 - Alamo Matters (monthly) – electronically and paper
 - Gator Weekly (weekly) – electronically
 - Google Groups – emails two or three times a week
- Benefits of electronic communication: less hours for volunteers to run copies and distribute, saves paper/trees
- Back-to-School Handbook – went out to Kinder and 1st grade families and new to Alamo families. Lots of important information can be found it this.
- Questions/comments can be sent to: communications@friendsofalamo.org

Meeting pause: Think of one thing about Alamo that makes you smile.

PTA Membership (7:15pm) – Wendi Digerness

- Join – it's only \$5.
- So far, we have ~150 members with ~45 new members.
- PTA to provide a letter to Ms. Revitz so that she can distribute to teachers, asking them to join.

PTA Store (7:16pm) – Cecelia Escobar-O'Dell

- Cecelia is our new PTA Store chair.
- Update: We have new t-shirts!! Children and adult sizes! Along with other older items (totes, magnets). They will be available at Back to School Night and other school events.
- Call for volunteers: Help set-up the PTA Store table at Back to School Night.
- New: Friday's are Alamo Spirit Day – wear Alamo t-shirts and sweatshirts or even the school colors: red and gold.

Sidebar topic: Education Outside

- Rosa introduced Merideth Witt, our dedicated teacher from the Education Outside program.
- Merideth is here Monday-Thursday and will work with K-5th grades. The schedule is still being worked out.

Events and Initiatives Status (7:20pm) – Various People

Back to School Night

- Thursday, Sept. 10th from 6:00-7:00pm. Childcare will be provided. (Movie will be shown.) Starts in the auditorium, then parents go to classrooms.

Back to School Picnic

- Ron Rittinger is chairing this.
- Information will be made available soon. It will be in GGP at the 19th Avenue playground. There will be games/sports activities. We are still looking for a music component. Food is potluck with categories assigned by grade.

Halloween Carnival Kick-Off Meeting

- Traditional school event with more than 700 participants.
- Sept. 25th – kick-off meeting. Classrooms will have parents staff a booth.
- We are looking for more volunteers.

Walk & Roll to School Day

- Details to come.

STEM Night

- Will be on October 7th
- This is a new event and it will be a collaboration between parents and teachers. 5 teachers and 2 parents are on board so far. If you'd like to lead an activity, let Jodie know.

Fundraising (7:28pm) – Lily Wong

- Lily gave an overview: Alamo does fundraising because SFUSD doesn't support all the enrichment programs that we want for our children.
- Last year, we raised \$290k. Our goal this year is \$325k.
- There are many passive ways to help fundraise, via the many Shop to Earn Programs that Alamo is signed-up with including Amazon, Target, Box Tops, eScrip, Sports Basement and more. Check the fundraising page on the Friends of Alamo website.

Invest in Alamo

- Invest in Alamo letters going out in red envelopes next week.
- All families who contribute will get an Alamo tote bag.
- Corporate match programs – if your company matches, please apply for it. If your company matches, but we need to sign up, Lily and her team can help.

Count Me In

- Paulina Chen is the CMI chair.
- Overview of what is CMI - Community events that are hosted by Alamo families for children and adults. \$2500 was raised last year. Examples of past and new events are given.
- Email Paulina: alamocmi2015@gmail.com

Label Daddy

- Kira Storch-Chiu manages this. Label Daddy provides personalized, durable peel-and-stick labels that can be put on jackets, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Alamo families get 10% off and 10% goes back to Alamo.
- Suggestion: Bring flyer to post at PTA Store table at Back to School night.

Square 1 Art

- Tal manages this. This program celebrates kids art and fundraises at the same time. There is no upfront cost. Schedule an hour where children make a picture on a S1A form. S1A will scan the art and send back a catalog and a sheet of personal art stickers. Alamo gets 33% or 43% back.
- Room parents should aim to have it done by October 5th so that items can be here by the holidays.

Sports Basement – Shopping day will take place in November with a yoga class.

STORY by Joe Speaks.

Open Discussion

- Nothing.

Meeting adjourned: 7:45pm.